Literature Review
Graduate Research Symposium

By
Dr. Leela Thomas & Mrs. Beverly Charlot

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What is a Literature Review

- A thorough Review of Literature is critical to all other aspects of your scholarly work!

- The content of the review is drawn from acceptable peer-reviewed journals or sound academic journals or there is a justification for using other sources.
A Review of Literature is the most important chapter in a dissertation.

It identifies, describes, evaluates, and summarizes the current information in your field.
Lit Review Cont’d

- It presents and analyzes the empirical and theoretical sources covering your variables.

- It demonstrates your mastery and understanding of your chosen field.
An excellent literature review is so important and crucial that some scholars recommend that a literature review be done first before anything else!
PURPOSE

- Demonstrates that research is solidly anchored in past work.
- Demonstrates that your research moves beyond that work in important ways.
PURPOSE

- Excellent place to demonstrate scholarly competence.
  - It indicates one’s grasp of the field
  - Indicates one’s methodological sophistication in critiquing other’s research
  - Breadth and depth of one’s reading
PURPOSE

Standing on the shoulders of giants!
Literature Review Matrix

- Create a matrix with important aspects
- You can always add later to the matrix
Example of Matrix
Literature Review Matrix

- Develop a problem (HMO/FFS) (Logistic Regression)
- Develop a methodology (survey)
- Get ideas on how to improve (Dichotomous to continuous)
Writing your review

- Use matrix to write the literature review section. (example)

- Do not write one article at a time. (example)

- Summarize pertinent information (example)
Responding to reviewers

- Use the matrix to respond to the criticisms of reviewers (examples)
Manuscript

- Show that you have responded to the comments/criticisms of reviewers
Submit a revised manuscript for publication
Hooray!!!

- PUBLICATION
POINTS REVISED
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Standing on the shoulders of giants!
Standing on the shoulders of giants
Dwarf standing on the shoulders of giants

Famous French Philosopher

"Bernard of Chartres used to say that we are like dwarfs on the shoulders of giants, so that we can see more than they, and things at a greater distance, not by virtue of any sharpness of sight on our part, or any physical distinction, but because we are carried high and raised up by their giant size."
Dwarf standing on the shoulders of giants

Sir Isaac Newton (Mathematician, Physicist, Astronomer) regarded by many as the greatest scientist who ever lived:

*If I have seen a little further it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants.*
Points to remember

- Start with the most recent literature. Outdated literature does not add to scholarship.
- Check out original sources.
- Be highly selective-cite only those on which the study builds. More is not necessarily better.
- Summarize pertinent information for the reader.
Never, Never, Never

Never say that nothing has been done in this area. IT IS A RED FLAG!

Never say the literature is too large for me to summarize easily. It is your responsibility to be selective.
My Professor on Literature Review

Dr. Martha Ozawa